

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action of May 6, 2005, in which the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 15 as being unpatentable over Nakayama et al US Patent 6,420,091, in view of Arimatsu et al US Patent 5,312,654. The remaining claims were considered as allowable if suitably amended.

Favorable reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in the light of the amendments, and the following remarks.

As noted in the specification of the present Applicant, the present invention relates to offset lithographic printing plates produced by inkjet imaging. Such plates for imaging with an inkjet printer comprise a pre-treated aluminum base, and a coating over the base comprising an organic-based polymer capable of being dried to a hydrophilic film.

The problem with such plates for imaging with an inkjet is that the aqueous inkjet inks tend to spread when they impact hydrophilic surfaces. As a result, the ink dots increase in size, thereby decreasing the resolution. The present invention particularly addresses this problem of plates for imaging with inkjet printers.

As described in the specification, for example in the bridging paragraph of pages 11 and 12, it was surprisingly found that when a second coating was applied over the first coating, which second coating included a mixture of a water-soluble hydrophilic polymer, the dot size was reduced. Although it is not understood why hydrophilic coatings should have this effect, nevertheless the specification includes a possible explanation of why this effect is produced.

The Examiner has rejected independent Claims 1 and 11 on the combination of Nakayama et al in view of Arimatsu et al, holding that it would be obvious to apply over the primary coating of Nakayama et al the secondary coating of Arimatsu et al.

However, it is not believed that this is a proper combination of the references, since while the secondary reference relates to plates for imaging with an inkjet printer, the primary reference does not relate at all to such plates, i.e., to plates for imaging with an inkjet printer. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to combine the two references as suggested by the Examiner since the two references relate to different types of plates involving different problems.

Nevertheless, Claim 1 has been amended in order to more clearly define the present invention and to more sharply distinguish it over the cited references. Thus, Claim 1 has been amended to set forth that the second coating includes a water-soluble hydrophilic polymer. As briefly described above, and more particularly in the specification, the provision of such a water-soluble hydrophilic polymer over the first coating, in a plate for imaging with an inkjet printer, has surprisingly been found to reduce dot size, and thereby to improve the resolution. Since the primary reference cited by the Examiner does not relate to a plate for imaging with an inkjet, it is not seen how one skilled in the art would be motivated to modify the primary reference, in the light of the secondary reference, to produce a plate for imaging with an inkjet printer having the advantages described above.

It is submitted, therefore, that Claim 1, particularly as now amended, is allowable over the cited references.

Claims 2–10 all depend from Claim 1, and are therefore submitted to be allowable with that claim for the same reasons as discussed above, apart from the further features in the respective claims.

Claim 11, drawn as an independent claim to the process, has been similarly amended as Claim 1, and is therefore submitted to be allowable with that claim for the same reasons.

The remaining Claims 12–15 all depend from Claim 11, and are therefore submitted to be allowable with that claim for the same reasons, apart from the further features set forth in the respective claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed this Application is now in condition for acceptance, and an early Notice of Acceptance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martin D. Moynihan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin Moynihan
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